



## Newsletter

It has been almost 10 years since the association "Universitaires Sans Frontières/Academics Without Borders" was created in Lyon, France with the aim of helping universities located in developing countries to modernize, both on the teaching and research sides, administration and international outreach. With this in mind, actions have been put in many countries; we will mention Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Senegal, Sudan, Cameroon, Guinea-Conakry, etc. However, in some places, brakes of all kinds have emerged as in Haiti, Gabon, Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Malaysia, etc.

In the next issue, we will analyze successes and failures, discuss the reasons for the difficulties and look for means to take it to the next level with greater efficiency.

Many colleagues tell us that they are available to participate in support missions. This is essential, but it must now be complemented by collaborations that enable us to cope with the formalization of the academic support sought by African higher education institutions.

**Universitaires sans Frontières/Academics Without Borders is increasingly being sought by requests for support from African higher education institutions. This implies a common reflection on the demands made and the support that can be offered in line with the objectives of USF-AWB; and also about the links and collaborations that can be established with other higher education institutions or centers, the formalization of projects and tenders, and the follow-up of these projects.**

**Collaborations in all or part of these areas are welcome to strengthen USF-AWB's support team. In particular, we are looking for two volunteer retired professors for negotiations with the universities that are asking us.**

In this issue, we will present the progress of the laboratory mentoring/twinning project and the publication of a new book to help social science research in which a USF member, Prof. Yves Livian, has written several articles.

Good reading. ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB.

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### **Mentoring/twinning research teams on the USF-AWB initiative**

At the initiative of USF (Newsletter 36), a group has been formed to develop bilateral relations between research teams from different countries represented in the list of contributors to USF actions. To join it, write to

[jumelage\\_labos\\_usf@framalistes.org](mailto:jumelage_labos_usf@framalistes.org).

All disciplines are concerned and their diversity in the group is a richness.

The principle is to connect teams from volunteer researchers to do so in the spirit of USF actions, i.e. to facilitate the strengthening and recognition of research teams in countries whose structures do not allow to easily ensure international relations for research. This project works in "bottom-up" mode and is linked to existing "top down" operations

deployed by public and private institutions.

Potential actions (non-exhaustive list) include:

- Cross-stays for teachers, researchers and young researchers,
- Co-supervising of thesis work,
- Support for writing scientific papers,
- Aid in setting up responses to calls for projects (scientific, administrative and financial part),
- The setting up of doctoral training courses,
- Seeking funding for thesis research,
- Hosting to exploit research platforms,
- The development of virtual libraries of scientific articles,
- The search for openness and sharing of library resources,
- Etc.

The modus operandi is pragmatic:

- An online form for people who can devote resources to the matchmaking project - <https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/TL3S2DL>
- The immediate mobilization of the group as soon as a specific request (a reference person identified on a concrete project and in a known timetable) is sent via <http://www.univ-sf.org/fr/contact/> with the subject " JUMELAGE ".
- Documentation on twinnings in a directory shared between the members of the group.

For more information on this mentoring/twinning operation, contact Professor Alain Mille [alain.mille@univ-lyon1.fr](mailto:alain.mille@univ-lyon1.fr). ■

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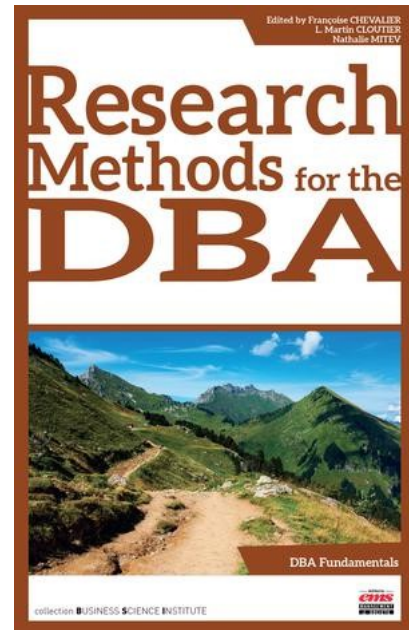
### **A new textbook for social science research methodology in English**

Two thick volumes come to enrich the research methodologies in economics and social sciences, aimed at candidates for a DBA (doctorate in business administration).

The English version has 30 chapters providing a comprehensive overview of the methods of collecting and processing field data and to give advice to the doctoral student on the rigorous conduct of his research project.

Beyond Parts 1 (choice of method), 2 and 3 (collection and analyzing data), the originality of the book lies in Part 4 "Contextualizing Methods," where there is discussion about the adaptation to the fields, with American, African and Asian examples. Of course, those research examples are taken in the domains of management and social sciences. The pragmatic direction is clear. But one can bet

that many PhD or DBA students will find this state of art international and really up to date very useful. The development of distance education, which is common in DBA, reinforces the need to provide the student with a complete and stable reference in methodological matters.



### **References:**

Research Methods for the DBA (edited by F. Chevalier, M. Cloutier, N. Mitev) EMS 2019

Note the publication in September 2020 in the same collection of the first book dedicated specifically to the African context.

For more information on this book, contact Professor Yves Livian [yves.livian@laposte.net](mailto:yves.livian@laposte.net). ■

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